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Thorne Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1956



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Phone R.D.C. Moh Report 1956.

24 JUL 1958

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Thorne Rural District Council



THE FIFTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health



By

G. HIGGINS, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

THORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(As at 30-6-57)

Chairman:

R. D. BALL, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

T. RATCLIFFE, Esq.

Members:

Mr. J. Beldon	Mrs. M. Lloyd	Mr. G. Seddon
Mrs. E. Duckitt	Mr. V. Lockwood	Mr. E. Stockton
Mr. G. Evans	Mrs. M. A. Lundy	Mr. W. Stoddart
Mr. F. Grugan	Mr. W. Machen	Mrs. E. Swift, J.P.
Mrs. A. E. Hinchliffe	Mr. G. H. Nash	Mr. J. E. Thomas, J.P.
Mr. R. Kelley.	Mr. G. H. Nicholson	Mr. E. Whitaker
Mr. G. W. Kenny, J.P.	Mrs. M. Oldham	

OFFICERS OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	G. HIGGINS, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	...	...	W. BELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	...	H. MORDUE, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.

OFFICES OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT

Public Health Department,

P.O. Box No. 4,

Council Offices,

THORNE.

Telephone: Thorne 2147, ext. 4.

OFFICERS OF THE WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT (Division 29).

(As at 30.6.57).

Divisional Medical Officer ... G. HIGGINS, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officer ... R. B. LAIDLAW-BECKER,

M.D., D.P.H., D.P.M.

MIDWIVES

Miss R. Autherson
Mrs. E. Curd

Mrs. M. Davidson
Mrs. E. Gorst
Mrs. M. Walker

Mrs. S. Kenyon
Miss M. Riggott

HOME NURSES

Mrs. J. Cawthrow
Mrs. A. D. Hewitt

Mrs. D. Dray
Mrs. P. Moulds
Mrs. R. Symons

Miss E. Gutteridge
Miss A. K. Schuller

HEALTH VISITORS

Mrs. K. Gott

Miss P. B. Mabbit
Mrs. I. Will

Miss A. D. Smith

ASSISTANT HEALTH VISITOR

Mrs. M. Hayes

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Social Worker ... Miss P. M. Conway
Group and Home Teacher ... Mrs. V. Morley

SPEECH THERAPIST ... Miss A. Fitton

CHIEF CLERK ... J. T. Howitt

CLERICAL STAFF

M. Fielding ... E. Barnes
B. Tracey

OFFICES

Divisional Health Office (Division 29),
P.O. Box No. 4,
Council Offices,
THORNE.

Telephone: Thorne 3130.
,, 2147, ext. 4.

Public Health Department,
P.O. Box No. 4,
Council Offices,
THORNE.

August, 1957.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Thorne Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the health conditions of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The Vital Statistics continue to be reasonably satisfactory. The birth rate continues to be very high compared with the national average; during the year there were 763 live births giving a rate of 22.6 per 1,000 population compared with the rate for England and Wales of 15.7. The deaths during the year amounted to 289, giving a crude death rate of 8.6 per 1,000 population compared with the national average of 11.7.

The number of infant deaths during the year amounted to 29, an increase of 6 compared with the previous year. The figure gives an infant mortality rate of 38 per 1,000 live births compared with the national average of 23.8. Although this figure is disappointing, examination of the tables in the report shows that 20 of the deaths occurred during the first 4 weeks of life and the great majority of these were due to conditions beyond control at the present time.

The epidemic of sonne dysentery mentioned in the report of last year continued well into 1956 during which a further 565 cases occurred.

The year was noteworthy in that vaccine became available for use against polio-myelitis—by the end of the year 168 children had received the benefit of this protection.

This report would be incomplete were I not to mention the energy and loyalty of my office staff, in particular my chief clerk who has been responsible for compiling the statistical data.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. HIGGINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I — VITAL STATISTICS

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT

Area (in acres) ... ... ... ... ...	... ... ...	38419
Population (Registrar's mid-year estimate) ... ... ...	... ... ...	33770
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ... ...	... ... ...	8977
Sum represented by Penny Rate ... ... ...	... ... ...	£987

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	... ... ... ... ...	392	341	733
Illegitimate	... ... ... ... ...	15	15	30
		407	356	763

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 22.6
 Birth rate of England & Wales per 1,000 population 15.7

Still Births:

Legitimate	... ... ... ... ...	7	7	14
Illegitimate	... ... ... ... ...	2	—	2
		9	7	16

Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births 20.5
 Still-birth rate for England and Wales 23.0

INFANT DEATHS (under 1 year of age):

Legitimate	... ... ... ... ...	16	12	28
Illegitimate	... ... ... ... ...	—	1	1
		16	13	29

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age (included in the above).

Legitimate	... ... ... ... ...	12	7	19
Illegitimate	... ... ... ... ...	—	1	1
		12	8	20

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 38.0
 Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales 23.8

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT AS SUPPLIED BY THE
REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR 1956.**
(Including Infants Deaths under 1 year).

Case of Death				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis — respiratory	...	...	...	5	3	8
Tuberculosis — other forms	...	...	...	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	8	—	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	8	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	13	9	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	2	—	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	19	26	45
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	25	12	37
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	2	2	4
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	13	18	31
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	6	5	11
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	2	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	9	20
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	—	3
Grástritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	18	22	40
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	2	4
All other accidents	...	...	...	8	1	9
Suicide	...	...	...	2	—	2
				159	130	289

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:

Thorne Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.6
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7

Table of Births, Deaths, Natural Increase, Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality since 1941.

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	
					Thorne	England and Wales
1941	653	325	328	55	80	59
1942	644	285	359	44	69	49
1943	647	305	342	40	62	49
1944	738	250	488	39	53	46
1945	674	234	440	38	56	46
1946	737	268	469	31	47	43
1947	795	321	474	53	67	41
1948	748	288	460	48	64	34
1949	706	296	410	43	60	32
1950	746	289	457	31	41	30
1951	724	300	424	30	41	29
1952	683	305	378	30	43	27
1953	717	281	436	24	33	26
1954	691	300	391	31	44	25
1955	695	256	439	23	33	24
1956	763	289	474	29	38	23

As will be seen this area continues to have a very high birth rate compared with other areas. There were 763 births compared with 691 the previous year; this gives a birth rate of 22.6 per 1,000 population compared with 15.7 for the country as a whole.

During the year there were 289 deaths from all causes, an increase of 33 from the previous year. This gives a crude rate of 8.6 per 1,000 population, the rate for England and Wales being 11.7 per 1,000 population.

The table on the previous page shows the causes of death as supplied by the Registrar-General. From this it will be noticed that deaths from cancer accounted for 47 deaths a reduction of 3 compared with the previous year. The deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus rose from 4 to 8 and these deaths were all in males. Diseases of the heart and circulation continue to account for more than one third of the total deaths.

INFANT DEATHS, 1956 (Compared with 5 previous years).

CAUSE OF DEATH	1956										Previous Years' Total Deaths					
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	1-2 months	2-4 months	4-6 months	6-8 months	8-10 months	10-12 months	Total 1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Chest infections, e.g.,																
Pneumonia,																
Bronchitis.	1		2			1				1	6	8	12	13	12	6
Prematurity	10										10	5	7	1	9	7
Gastro-Enteritis	1						1		1		3	1	1	2	1	3
Congenital Defect					2	1					3	5	6	4	4	7
Asphyxia	6					1					7	3	4	2	2	4
Meningitis												1	1			
Cerebral haemorrhage																2
Haemolytic disease													1	1	1	1
Miscellaneous											1		2	1		
	18		2		2	3	1		2	1	29	23	31	24	30	30

From the above table it will be noticed that the number of deaths was 29 an increase of 6 on the previous year. The infant death rate was 38 per 1,000 live births compared with 33.1 the previous year.

The infant death rate of England and Wales was 23.8 per 1,000 live births, consequently the figure for this area at first sight seems disappointing. However, the difference is entirely accounted for by the large number of deaths occurring during the first week of life. Deaths in this period are practically all due to factors over which we have very little control and are, consequently, unavoidable at present. For some reason unknown deaths during this period appear to be high where the birth rate is high, as in this area.

If deaths during the first week are excluded then the number of deaths of children in this area is the lowest ever recorded. In this connection one must again draw attention to the excellent work of the general medical practitioners and nurses who are responsible for the supervision of the health of the children.

SECTION 2 — INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis) during 1956.

DISEASE	AGE GROUPS						Adm. to Hosp.	Deaths
	0-1 years.	1-4 years.	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	15-24 years.	25 & over.	TOTAL	
Confirmed Cases:								
Malaria						1	1	
Scarlet Fever		7	13	5	1	1	27	
Whooping Cough	16	49	26	1			92	1
Measles	12	87	153	17	2	1	272	2
Acute Pneumonia	3	13	7		3	35	61	
Dysentery	34	113	81	34	64	239	565	3
Erysipelas			1	1		3	5	
Food Poisoning	1					3	4	1
Puerpural Pyrexia					1	1	2	3
Ophthamlia Neonatorum	2						2	
Poliomyelitis—								
Paralytic								
Non-paralytic								

As will be seen from the above table, the incidence of infectious disease was high during the year due to the large increase in the number of cases of dysentery, and here I would draw attention to my remarks on this disease contained in my report for last year; as there stated, we have still no effective measures of control over this condition. As in the previous year, the cases continued to be of a mild nature and cleared up very quickly with modern methods of treatment.

Once again no case of diphtheria occurred; the area has been free from this disease now for many years. This can only be due to the success of the scheme of immunisation against this disease. Besides the normal immunisation the state of immunity is maintained by the giving of booster doses whilst the children are in school.

There was an increase in the incidence of scarlet fever from 7 to 27 cases. This disease is of considerably less importance than was the case ten to fifteen years ago due to its changed type and mildness.

This disease has in fact so much altered that the name "Scarlet" is now misleading as it is now rarely accompanied by a well-marked rash.

There were no deaths from scarlet fever, as besides being mild the organism responsible ~~for~~ the haemolytic streptococcus is very susceptible to modern treatment.

With some exceptions the statutory notification of infectious disease by general practitioners has been satisfactory, but difficulty occasionally occurs with late notification especially in regard to food poisoning. With this condition early notification is especially important as otherwise investigation and tracing of the cause is rendered very difficult.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases notified during 1956 was as follows:—

Age Group:

					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M	F	M	F
2—4 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
5—9 years	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
10—14 years	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
15—19 years	...	...	...	...	3	3	—	2
20—24 years	...	...	...	...	2	2	—	—
25—34 years	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	—
35—44 years	...	...	...	...	2	2	—	—
45—54 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	1
55—64 years	...	...	...	...	4	1	—	—
65—75 years	...	...	...	...	3	1	—	—
					—	—	—	—
					19	15	1	3
					—	—	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1956.

During the year the following deaths occurred:—

Age at Death:					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M	F	M	F
2 months	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	1
18 years	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
27 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
30 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
33 years	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
34 years	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
64 years	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
67 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
68 years	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
					—	—	—	—
					5	3	1	1
					—	—	—	—

From the above tables it will be noticed that there was a rise in the number of notifications of this disease (38) compared with 28 the previous year. This is accounted for by the number of cases discovered as a result of the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit during the year when 8 active and 30 inactive hitherto unsuspected cases were discovered. It is vitally important that the public should take advantage of these facilities, as early detection gives a much improved chance of cure by modern treatment. Early treatment is also important as this disease affects people in the prime of their working life when their value to the community is at its highest.

From notifications received from hospitals and sanatoria the following number of patients suffering from tuberculosis were admitted and discharged:—

	Admitted			Discharged		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Respiratory:						
Adults	22	14	36	25	7	32
Children						
Non-Respiratory:						
Adults		1	1			
Children		1	1			
	22	16	38	25	7	32

11 hospitals and sanatoria were involved.

TUBERCULOSIS — PREVENTION OF, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Under the West Riding County Council Scheme for the prevention of, care and after-care of tuberculosis, the following number of patients were provided with extra nourishment in the form of 2 pints of milk daily. Figures for the previous year are also given for comparison:—

		1956	1955
(i) Patients receiving nourishment at beginning of year	...	44	47
(ii) Patients granted nourishment during the year	...	41	30
(iii) Grants discontinued	...	30	33
(iv) Patients receiving nourishment at the end of the year	...	55	44

In addition to the above many patients were assisted by the provision and loan of extra bedding and nursing equipment, together with domiciliary visiting and the Home Help Service.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The South Yorkshire Mass Radiography Unit visited the area during the year and appended below are details of the survey:—

Survey undertaken at	Number examined.	Abnormalities Discovered			Total
		Active	Inactive	Other	
Miners' Welfare, Stainforth	2,081	2	13	64	79
Miners' Welfare, Moorends	1,725	5	12	55	72
Thorne Grammar School	532			3	3
Council Offices, Thorne	1,005	1	5	11	17
	5,343	8	30	133	171

The 133 "Other" abnormalities have been classified as under:—

Abnormality of bony thorax and soft tissues, congenital	...	...	...	1
Bacterial and virus infections of lungs	...	...	...	1
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	11
Emphysema	...	...	...	2
Pulmonary—fibrosis—non-tuberculous	...	...	...	14
Pneumoconiosis	...	...	...	66
Carcinoma of the lung and mediastinum	...	...	...	2
Pleural thickening and calcification—non-tuberculous	...	...	...	2
Abnormalities of the diaphragm and oesophagus (congenital and acquired)	...	...	...	6
Congenital abnormalities of heart and vessels	...	...	...	1
Acquired abnormalities of heart and vessels	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1
				133

CLINIC ARRANGEMENTS (as at 30.6.1957).

ANTE-NATAL, POST NATAL AND RELAXATION CLINICS.

Thorne:

Temperance Institute, Thorne Friday afternoons 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Moorends: (Relaxation Class only).

Wesleyan Chapel, Northgate, Moorends Thursday afternoons 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Stainforth:

Wesleyan Chapel, Church Road, Stainforth.	Friday mornings Thursday mornings relaxation class	10.0 a.m. to 12 noon 10 a.m. to 12 noon
--	--	--

Dunscroft:

Church Hall, Station Road, Dunscroft Wednesday afternoons 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

LABORATORY SERVICES

These are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Wakefield.

The examinations carried out at the laboratory include those for milk, water and other biological tests in connection with the clinical services.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

All cases requiring this service, including infectious diseases, are now dealt with by the County Council Ambulance Depot, Bentley, near Doncaster. Telephone No. Doncaster 49468.

VENEREAL DISEASE

There is no Centre for Venereal Disease in this area, the nearest one being at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS — PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

For a discussion of this refer to the section dealing with Infectious Diseases.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES — ATTENDANCES

Infant Welfare Clinics are held in premises as shown under the heading "Clinic Arrangements."

Each clinic is staffed by an Assistant County Medical Officer and two Health Visitors, with assistance from voluntary workers.

Below are details of attendances during 1956:—

Clinic situated at	Number of individual children who attended						First Attendance	Total Attendances
		
Thorne	238	...	...	114	...
Moorends	125	...	...	72	...
Stainforth	271	...	...	123	...
Dunscroft	206	...	...	98	...
Hatfield	152	...	...	59	...
				992			466	9,567

WELFARE FOODS' SERVICE

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued throughout the year at the following centres: —

Thorne Child Welfare Centre	...	...	Every Wednesday	2 to 4 p.m.
Thorne Child Welfare Centre	...	...	Every Friday	1.30 to 3 p.m.
Moorends Child Welfare Centre	...	...	Every Tuesday	2 to 4 p.m.
Stainforth Child Welfare Centre	...	...	Every Wednesday	2 to 4 p.m.
Hatfield Child Welfare Centre	...	...	Every Monday	2 to 4 p.m.
Dunscroft Child Welfare Centre	...	...	Every Tuesday	2 to 4 p.m.
W.V.S. Headquarters, Moorends	...	...	Every Monday and Wednesday	2 to 4 p.m.
W.V.S. Headquarters, Moorends	...	...	Every Saturday	10 a.m. to 12 noon
R.A.F. Child Welfare Centre, Lindholme	...	...	Everv Thursday	2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Fishlake School	...	...	Monday to Friday	9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

During the year the following foods were distributed, showing sales for each quarter of the year: —

	N.D.M.	Cod Liver Oil	"A" & "D" Tablets	Orange Juice
1st Quarter	4,431	1,075	330	3,857
2nd Quarter	4,209	963	409	4,940
3rd Quarter	4,347	991	288	4,648
4th Quarter	4,460	1,203	372	4,215
	<hr/> <u>17,447</u>	<hr/> <u>4,232</u>	<hr/> <u>1,399</u>	<hr/> <u>17,660</u>

HEALTH VISITING

The establishment of Health Visitors for the area is 7.

At the beginning of the year there were only 3 qualified Health Visitors to serve the area. During the year, however, two further appointments were made one of which left for Canada towards the end of the year.

During 1956 the following visits took place: —

	First visits	Total visits
Expectant Mothers	27	31
Children under 1 year of age	734	1,480
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	—	1,461
Other cases	—	1,380
	<hr/> <u>771</u>	<hr/> <u>4,352</u>
Number of families visited	...	1,435
Total ineffectual visits	...	665

In addition to the above, an Assistant Health Visitor who undertakes the visiting to tuberculous patients, made 654 visits during the year.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

The under-mentioned Home Nurses were employed during 1956:—

Mrs. J. Cawthrow
Mrs. D. Dray
Miss E. Gutteridge

Mrs. A. D. Hewitt
Mrs. P. Moulds
Miss A. K. Schuller

During the year the following cases were attended:—

Type of Case	Number of Cases		Number of Visits	
	Injections only	Other	Injections only	Other
Medical	320	467	10,008	8,062
Surgical	80	157	1,102	3,103
Infectious diseases ...	—	1	—	11
Tuberculosis ...	42	10	677	3,582
Maternal complications ...	2	9	59	55
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	444	644	11,846	14,813
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The 11,846 visits made to patients for injections only have been classified as follows:—

	Anti-Biotic	Sedative	Insulin	Anaemia	Others
Medical	7,883	47	1,206	336	536
Surgical	1,016	20	—	—	66
Infectious Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	677	—	—	—	—
Maternal Complications ...	59	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,635	67	1,206	336	602
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The work of the Home Nurses has again shown an increase and the number of home visits has now reached the total of 26,659 an increase of 1,618 on the previous year.

This large number of visits has resulted in the staff being overworked on several occasions, but all have carried out their duties without complaint and unfailing regularity.

The difficulty in attracting suitable nurses to this area has continued and as stated in my previous reports the only solution would appear to be some extra financial inducement for nurses working in these unpopular areas.

NURSING EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOME

Nursing equipment is loaned to patients in need, on the certificate of a doctor or district nurse.

To give an indication as to the amount of equipment loaned during the year appended below are details of issues made:—

Item	Issues during the year	Item	Issues during the year
			Item
Bedding—blankets ...	26	Commodes ...	6
“ —sheets ...	41	Mattresses—all types ...	10
Bed pans ...	98	Air rings ...	78
Bed rests ...	79	Rubber sheets ...	74
Special beds ...	7	Urinals ...	68
Bed cradles ...	14	Wheel-chairs (short term)	21

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The following midwives practised within the area during 1956:—

Miss R. Autherson	Mrs. E. Gorst
Mrs. E. Curd	Mrs. S. Kenyon
Mrs. M. Davidson	Miss M. Riggott
Mrs. M. Walker	

Details of the work carried out by these midwives during 1956 are set out below:—

(i) Number of deliveries:—

(a) Still births	...	...	...	8
(b) Live births	...	...	...	498

of which a doctor was present at the time of delivery on 19 occasions.

(ii) Number of women discharged from hospital to the care of the midwife:—

(a) Before the tenth day	...	...	29
(b) After the tenth but before the fourteenth day	...	...	28

(iii) Number of occasions midwives summoned medical aid to their cases:—

For pregnancy	...	...	...	18
During labour	...	...	...	41
During the lying-in period	...	...	...	15
For the child	...	...	...	23

(iv) The number of patients who received the administration of Gas and Air Analgesia is as follows:—

Pethidine alone	...	...	...	84
Gas and Air alone	...	...	...	99
Gas and Air with Pethidine	...	...	...	146
Trilene alone	...	...	...	6
Trilene with Pethidine	...	...	...	46
				381

During the year a special relaxation class, administered by a midwife, was re-opened in Moorends and several general practitioners took the opportunity of referring their own cases for instruction. Fifteen patients made a total of 76 attendances.

Staff permitting, it is hoped to re-open a similar clinic in or near the Stainforth area.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

Joint ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held in premises shown under "Clinic Arrangements."

Each clinic is staffed by a Medical Officer and two midwives.

Attendances at these clinics during 1956 were as follows:—

Clinic situated at	Ante-Natal			Post-Natal		
	Number of women who attended	Total attendances	Number of women who attended	Total attendances		
Thorne	40 (14)*	200	5	7		
Moorends	—	—	—	—		
Stainforth	93 (59)	517	1	2		
Dunscroft	37 (10)	201	1	4		
Hatfield	—	—	—	—		
	<hr/> 170 (83)	<hr/> 918	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 13		

* Number in brackets indicate new patients.

Due to a great reduction in the number of attendances the ante-natal clinics at Hatfield and Moorends were merged with the infant welfare clinics and since this merger there have been no attendances.

There has once again been a fall in the attendances at the other ante-natal clinics to a total of 918 compared with 1,398 attendances during 1955.

The reduction in attendances is entirely due to the continuing tendency for expectant mothers to attend their own practitioners for ante-natal care and does not represent any decrease in the standard of care given to mothers in this area. From the figures given it will be noted that less than 25% of the mothers in this area attend the local authority clinics.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

Year	TYPE OF CASE								Total cases and hours	
	Maternity		Tuber-culosis		CHRONIC SICK		Others			
	C	Hours	C	Hours	C	Hours	C	Hours	C	Hours
1951	63	6,930	—	—	—	N/A.	62	12,159	46	4,476
1952	54	6,184	1	120	—	N/A.	63	12,422	36	5,849
1953	62	6,619	5	847	—	N/A.	80	14,161	33	5,432
1954	60	7,813	8	1,584	—	N/A.	97	16,384	26	4,319
1955	47	6,182½	6	1,357½	114	23,471½	7	986	15	1,176½
1956	25	2,504	8	3,475	163	20,873	11	2,108	27	4,035

As will be seen from the above figures, this service has again expanded, mainly with the number of cases dealt with although there is a small reduction in the hours worked on the previous year.

The bulk of this service is now taken up with the care of the aged who, in most cases, receive 3 to 4 sessions of service per week.

SECTION 3 — W.R.C.C. SERVICES

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION SERVICES

SMALLPOX:

Vaccinations carried out in the area are shown below together with figures of previous years:—

Primary Vaccinations:		1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
0- 5 years	194	147	169	150
5-14 years	7	3	6	10
15 years and over	7	6	7	8
		—	208	156	182	168
		—	—	—	—	130

Re-Vaccinations:

0- 5 years	...	...	1	—	—	—
5-14 years	...	...	2	—	3	2
15 years and over	...	...	5	1	9	20
		—	—	—	—	17
		—	8	1	12	22
		—	—	—	—	20

WHOOPING COUGH:

Immunisations are usually carried out by the Medical Officers at the various clinics within the area or, if parents desire it, by their own family doctors.

During the year a total of 59 children were immunised. Set out below are details of the number of children in the area who, at the 31st December, 1956, had been immunised since immunisations commenced in April, 1952:—

Age at 31-12-56. i.e. born in year	Under 1 year 1956	1-4 years 1955-1952	5-9 years. 1951-1947	Total
Number immunised	4	230	42	276

DIPHTHERIA:

The following table shows the number of immunisations carried out during 1956, together with figures for previous years:—

Primary Courses:		1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
0- 5 years	315	240	301	221
5-15 years	325	299	320	385
		—	640	539	621	606
		—	—	—	—	588

Refresher Courses:

5-15 years	...	...	309	219	408	499
		—	—	—	—	629

The above figures show that the number of immunisations continues to be satisfactory and is mainly responsible for the fact that once again there have been no cases of diphtheria occurring during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS.

In February 1956 the County Council agreed to adopt a scheme of vaccination against poliomyelitis as authorised in the Ministry of Health Circular No. 2/56.

Accordingly, arrangements were made in March to approach the parents of all children born in the area between 1947 and 1954 (total 5,810) to agree to their children being immunised. At the close of the registration period a total of 1,785 children had been registered.

Vaccinations commenced in May and continued up to the end of June, when vaccination was suspended on the approach of the poliomyelitis season.

The following table gives the number vaccinated according to their year of birth:—

Complete Courses:	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Males	11	19	11	11	9	8	10	11	90
Females	11	15	11	12	4	8	11	6	78
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	22	34	22	23	13	16	21	17	168
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

One Injection Only:

Males	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	—	12
Females	2	2	3	5	1	2	2	—	17
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	3	5	8	3	3	3	—	29
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The County Council Scheme for the B.C.G. vaccination of 13-year-old school children was commenced during the year, and all senior schools in the area were visited.

A total of 543 children were offered vaccination and 309 accepted. Of this figure, 255 children received a pre-vaccination tuberculin test of which the following results were found:—

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| (i) Number found positive | ... | 42 |
| (ii) Number found negative | ... | 201 |
| (iii) Not ascertained | ... | 12 |

Of the 201 children found to be negative a total of 199 actually received vaccination, none of which were reported to have suffered any complications.

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC.

Two sessions are held weekly at the Thorne Child Welfare Centre. The clinic, however, was closed temporarily during the summer months.

Children who require U.V.L. treatment are referred to the Divisional Health Office when arrangements are made for attendances.

Attendances during 1956 are as follows:—

Referred by:	Age Groups				Total.
	0-5	5-15	Others		
General Practitioners	1 28	— 29
School Medical Officers	— 9	— 9
Child Welfare Centres	8 4	— 12
Other sources	— 4	— 4
				— —	— —
				9 45	— 54
				— —	— —
Number who actually attended		...		50	
Total attendances	614	

CONVALESCENT HOME TREATMENT.

The County Council provide convalescence for patients in need of such care.

Applications accompanied by a doctor's certificate are forwarded to the Divisional Health Office when arrangements are then made for the patient to go away.

The number of patients who have proceeded on convalescence are as follows:—

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
6	11	5	10	7

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT — SECTION 47.

No cases were dealt with under the above Act during 1956.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS:

During 1956 the following routine medical inspections of school children were made:—

Age Groups	No. of inspec-tions	Nutrition		Total Defects Found Requiring—	
		A Good	B Fair	Defect	Treat-ment.
Entrants	918	910	8	Skin	17
7-8 year group ...	—	—	—	Eyes—vision ...	90
Last year Prim. ...	719	716	3	squint ...	21
First year Sec. ...	—	—	—	Other ...	—
Last year Sec. ...	468	467	1	Ears—hearing ...	2
	2,105	2,093	12	otitis media	5
				Nose and Throat ...	17
				Speech	16
				Lymphatic glands ...	2
				Heart	4
				Lungs	4
				Developmental—	9
				hernia ...	1
				other ...	1
				Orthopaedic—	3
				posture ...	2
				feet	2
				other ...	8
				Nervous system ...	14
				Psychological—	6
				development ...	4
				stability ...	2
				Abdomen	1
					—
					2
					—

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC:

Minor ailment clinics (referred to as "school clinics") are held in premises named under the heading "Clinic Arrangements."

A health visitor is usually in attendance, and any serious ailment is brought to the attention of the School Medical Officer, or referred to the child's own doctor.

During the year cases treated were as follows:—

Ringworm—Scalp	...	...	...	1
Body	...	...	...	2
Scabies ...	...	...	...	13
Impetigo ...	...	...	...	105
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	33

CONSULTANT PAEDIATRIC CLINIC:

Dr. C. C. Harvey, the Paediatrician, holds a special clinic once monthly for children of this area.

During 1956 ten clinics were held in which he saw 28 new cases and 41 cases from the previous year. A total of 81 attendances were made at the clinic.

DENTAL TREATMENT:

Dental treatment is available for children of this area by one of the county dental officers, who periodically visits the schools in the area.

During 1956 the following children received treatment:—

Number of children inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1,651
„ found to need treatment	...	...	...	...	...	1,345
„ who received treatment	...	...	...	...	...	873
„ of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	2,164
„ of temporary extractions	...	...	...	...	...	565
„ of permanent extractions	...	...	...	...	...	54
„ of temporary fillings	...	...	...	...	...	31
„ of permanent fillings	...	...	...	...	...	1,340
Other operations—temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	...	91
„ „ —permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	...	582

Under the County Council Dental Scheme arrangements are made whereby expectant and nursing mothers (the latter up to nine months from the birth of the child) are offered treatment either by one of the County Council Dental Officers or a dentist of their own choice.

During 1956 the following were provided with dental care:—

Number referred for examination:—

By general practitioners	...	...	178
„ child welfare clinics	...	...	22
„ ante-natal clinics	...	...	21
<hr/>			
		221	<hr/>

Known number who received full or part treatment 127

Known number who failed appointments 62

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT:

Children who require treatment are seen by Mr. H. M. Petty at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary. A special clinic is held there once monthly, and during 1956—

Number of clinics held	...	...	11
		0-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.
Number of children seen by consultant including those continuing attendance from previous year	...	...	7 79
Number requiring operative treatment		5	61
Number who obtained operative treatment	...	...	2 64
Total attendances at clinic	...	9	114

HOSPITAL EYE SERVICE:

Children found to be needing attention to their eyes are referred by the School Health Service to their Hospital Eye Service who, in turn, arrange for any treatment necessary.

A special clinic for such children is held once weekly in Doncaster.

During 1956, 210 children were prescribed spectacles of whom it is known that 107 children received them.

SPEECH THERAPY:

Children who require treatment are first seen by a medical officer and then sent to the speech therapist who holds her clinic in one of the nearby schools.

Unfortunately, during 1956 no speech therapist was appointed and at the end of the year a total of 120 children were awaiting treatment.

At the time of writing this report, however, a speech therapist has been appointed and children are being seen regularly.

ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICE:

Children from this area can be seen by a consultant orthopaedic surgeon. A clinic is held once monthly and during 1956 ten clinics were held at which 20 children were seen.

CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT:

Children requiring treatment are taken by their parents to a special clinic held at Rawmarsh, where they are interviewed by a psychologist.

During 1956 three cases were referred from this area.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS — ENTRANTS TO TRAINING COLLEGES AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

During 1956, 23 entrants to training colleges were examined and 13 children were examined in connection with applications for their employment. In addition, many medical examinations were undertaken for entry into the Superannuation Schemes of the County Council and District Councils.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

DISTRICT VISITING:

The social worker who undertakes the statutory visiting of mental defectives visited all cases during the year, giving help and advice where needed.

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year was:—

	0-16 yrs.	16 years and over
(i) Under Guardianship	—	3
(ii) Under Statutory Supervision ...	12	34
(iii) Under Voluntary Supervision ...	—	9
(iv) Known number of defectives in institutions	5	43
	—	—
	17	89
	—	—

During the year four children under 16 years of age were ascertained and reported as mental defectives. In addition, the County Council arranged for three defectives to be accommodated for "short stay."

At the end of the year one case, a child under 16 years of age, was in need of urgent institutional care.

The social worker also undertakes the visitation of patients discharged from mental hospitals, for care and after-care services, and during the year 11 new cases and 17 old cases received 137 visits.

GROUP TRAINING AND HOME TEACHING:

As reported previously, the new premises for the group training class were obtained in July 1955 and throughout 1956 the work and scope of this class has steadily increased.

During the year arrangements were put in hand to increase the number of days per week from two to four (i.e. Tuesday to Friday weekly) and since this was approved further admissions to the class were made. Twelve children now regularly attend this class, where occupational therapy is given.

Equipment is provided by the County Council and the children receive school meals which are brought to the class daily from one of the nearby schools.

An "Open-Day" for parents was arranged, when they were able to see the work undertaken. It is hoped to continue this practice yearly.

During the year 929 attendances were made as compared with 339 the previous year.

PREMATURE BABIES

Set out below are details of premature babies born during 1956:—

Birth weight and Survival.	Total born alive and dead	B O R N			
		ALIVE		DEAD	
		At Home	In Hosp.	At Home	In Hosp.
<i>Born under 3 lbs:</i> ...	5	1	3	1	—
(a) Survived 28 days	...	—	—	—	—
(b) Died under 28 days	...	1	3	—	—
<i>Born between 3-4 lbs:</i> ...	13	1	10	—	2
(a) Survived 28 days	...	1	6	—	—
(b) Died under 28 days	...	—	4	—	—
<i>Born between 4-5 lbs:</i> ...	51	22	26	1	2
(a) Survived 28 days	...	21	24	—	—
(b) Died under 28 days	...	1	2	—	—
	69				

From the above table it will be observed that 69 children were born prematurely compared with 57 the previous year.

Of these 69 children, 52 survived the statistical period of 28 days, compared with 44 the previous year.

The Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

WILLIAM BELL, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

H. MORDUE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this report on the work of the department during the year.

HOUSING:

1—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:

1	(a) Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	507
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1293
2	(a) Number of Dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
3	Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
4	Number of Dwellinghouses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonable for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	507

2—Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective Dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	348
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:

(a) Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1	Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2	Number of Dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service by formal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1	Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	159
2	Number of Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after services of formal notices:	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	159
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts 1936:

1	Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2	Number of Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

One house has been demolished by informal action.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:

1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

4—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding:

(a)	1 Number of Dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400
	2 Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	750
	3 Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2600
(b)	1 Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
(c)	1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
	2 Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	670

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1956:

1 State Aided:

(a) By Local Authority 154
 (b) By Private Enterprise Nil
 Without State Aid 26

WATER SUPPLY:

A piped water supply is provided by the Thorne and District Water Company and an estate of 207 houses in Hatfield is supplied from a private borehole. The supply to all dwellings is shown thus:

Parish				Houses	Piped Supply	Standpipe	Wells
Thorne	...	...	...	4360	4092	146	122
Hatfield	...	...	...	2463	2236	28	199
Stainforth	...	...	...	1855	1810	5	40
Fishlake	...	...	...	172	123	4	45
Sykehouse	...	...	...	127	69	-	58
	Total	...		8977	8330	183	464

The following extensions have been completed during the year, and the percentage of dwellings with a piped supply is 92.8 including standpipes, 94.8 compared with 91.9 and 93.95 respectively in 1955

Parish				Diameter of pipe		Length in Lineal Yards
South Common R.D.C.	Housing Estate	...	...	4"	...	36
Thorne		...	...	3"	...	670

Chemical Analysis of a sample from the Main at:

STAINFORTH

Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	260
Chloride	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Lead, Copper, Zinc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Nitrous Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.7
	Ph	...	...	...	...	8.0			

This water is of good organic purity.

Chemical analysis of a sample from the bore at:
SYKEHOUSE

								Parts per million
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Chloride	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	230
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Nitrous Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.3
pH	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.2

This water is of good organic purity.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS—MOORENDS.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C	...	...	0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli	...	...	0 per 100 ml.

SYKEHOUSE

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C	...	...	0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli	...	...	0 per 100 ml.

SEWERAGE

The approximate state of disposal from Dwellinghouses is shown thus:

Parish	Houses	Main Drainage	Pail Closets	Privy Middens	Cess-pool	Septic Tank & Filter
Thorne	...	4360	3944	185	90	141
Hatfield	...	2463	2197	122	49	94
Stainforth	...	1855	1792	11	43	9
Fishlake	...	172	—	43	89	23
Sykehouse	...	127	—	22	86	7
Total	...	8977	7933	383	357	274
		—	—	—	—	—
						30

Six pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Premises	Main Drainage	Pail Closets	Privy Middens	Cess-pools	Septic Tank & Filters	Totals
Dwellinghouses	...	8542	383	357	274	30 9586
Commercial Premises	...	1002	43	3	—	— 1048
Schools	...	279	22	1	—	— 302
Hotels & Public Houses	...	150	6	—	3	— 159
Public Conveniences	...	17	—	—	—	— 17
Totals	...	9990	954	361	277	30 11112
		—	—	—	—	—

No. of water closets constructed for new houses on main drainage	...	...	...	...	175
No. of water closets in all premises on main drainage	...	...	...	...	9990
No. of closets of all kinds in the district	...	...	...	...	11112
Percentage of dwellings on main drainage	...	...	...	...	88.4
Percentage of closets in all premises on main drainage	...	...	...	...	89.9
Not included in the above statistics:					
No. of pail closets on established moveable dwelling sites	...	...	...	...	200

FOOD AND DRUGS.

MILK SAMPLING

Milk	Test			Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Ordinary	Methylene Blue	...	...	4	—
Ordinary	Biological	...	...	2	—
Tuberculin Tested (Farm bottled)	Methylene Blue	...	...	2	—
	Biological	...	...	2	—
Pasteurised	Phosphatase	...	...	2	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	Phosphatase	...	...	2	—
Sterilised	Turbidity	...	...	7	—
				<hr/> 21	<hr/> Nil
				<hr/>	<hr/>

ICE CREAM:

Premises registered under Sec. 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	2
Retailers	...	...	...	...	69
Produce-Retailer	...	...	...	...	2
Sampling:					
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	8
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	3
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	4
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	7

No coliforms were isolated in three samples of iced lollies.

There is in Thorne an H.T.S.T. plant, and the district is now a specified area in which only pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested milk may be retailed.

FOOD INSPECTION:

One ton 12 cwts. of various foodstuffs was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

SLAUGHTERING:

Most of the meat consumed is slaughtered without the district, and three slaughterhouses in use are regularly visited.

BAKEHOUSES:

There are seven registered, and routine inspection has shown them to be in a satisfactory condition.

SHOPS ACT, 1934 and 1950.

No. of visits paid under the above Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
No. of unsatisfactory conditions found ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

The service is maintained satisfactorily by a self-contained unit of a 750 gallon cesspool emptier adapted for the collection of night soil, five refuse collection vehicles—3 of 7, 2 of 10, and 1 of 12 cubic yards capacity, two of which can be similarly adapted, a utility vehicle, garage workshop, stores and pumps.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping, and it is estimated that the life of the tips is sufficient for some time to come.

The provision of dustbins by the Council as a charge against the general rate fund has proved successful for the past seven years, and there is no doubt that the scheme is a useful contribution towards the public health.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

Because of the housing shortage the number increases, many having only a semblance of mobility, and are controlled particularly with regard to siting and sanitary conditions.

Four sites with services contain the majority of the vans, thus partially alleviating the problems created by this type of dwelling which is demolished whenever possible when the occupants are housed.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937:

There are 67 factories in the district, and inspection has shown them to be satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS:

Twenty-four have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

RATS AND MICE INFESTATION ORDER, 1934:

Destruction measures have been undertaken on the Dunscroft, Stainforth, Moorends, and Thorne tips. Infestations in dwellings and commercial premises have been dealt with.

No. of inspections non-agricultural ...	...	123
No. of inspections— agricultural ...	...	243
No. of inspections non-agricultural ...	...	160

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION:

The results shown by the apparatus at the Council Offices of deposited smoke and solids compares favourably with other similar stations in the country.



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